

## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

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1. A media receiving system communicatively coupled to a digital terminal device, wherein said digital terminal device is a set top box configured with a default application program, said media receiving system comprising:

10 a media receiving apparatus coupled to said media receiving system which receives digital storage media, wherein said digital storage media is a memory stick, said memory stick containing alternative application software program to be used by said digital terminal device;

a media accessing mechanism coupled to said media receiving  
15 apparatus for accessing data contained within said digital storage media, once said digital storage media has been received by said media receiving apparatus; and

a relaying component coupled to said media receiving apparatus that relays said data contained within said digital storage media to said digital  
20 terminal device.

2. The system of Claim 1 wherein said alternative application software program is configured as a stand-alone application software program, said stand-alone application software program adapted to be  
25 implemented in said digital terminal device instead of said default application program configured in said digital terminal device.

3. The system of Claim 1 wherein said alternative application software program is configured as an upgrade application software program, said upgrade application software program adapted to be written into said default application program of said digital terminal device, such that said default application is thereby upgraded.

4. The system of Claim 1 wherein said alternative application software program is configured as a corrective application software program, said corrective application software program is adapted to be written into said default application program of said digital terminal device, such that the portion of said default application program of said digital terminal device functioning improperly is corrected such that proper functionality is restored to said default application program.

5. A media receiving apparatus communicatively coupled to a digital terminal device, wherein said digital terminal device is a set top box configured with a default application program, said media receiving apparatus comprising:

an opening in said media receiving apparatus adapted to enable said media receiving apparatus to receive media;

a receiving mechanism coupled to said media receiving apparatus, said receiving mechanism adapted to receive said media, wherein said media is digital storage media;

an accessing mechanism coupled to said receiving mechanism, said  
accessing mechanism adapted to access data contained within said digital  
storage media, once said media has been received; and

a relaying component coupled to said media receiving apparatus, said  
5 relaying component adapted to relay said accessed received data to said  
digital terminal device, wherein said data is an alternative application  
software program to be used by said digital terminal device.

6. The apparatus of Claim 5 wherein said digital storage media is a  
10 memory stick.

7. The apparatus of Claim 5 wherein said opening of said media  
receiving apparatus is such that it is integral to said digital terminal device.

8. The apparatus of Claim 5 wherein said opening of said media  
15 receiving apparatus is of a height and width to accept said digital storage  
media.

9. The apparatus of Claim 5 wherein said alternative application  
20 software program is configured as a stand-alone application software  
program, said stand-alone application software program adapted to be  
implemented in said digital terminal device instead of said default  
application program said configured in said digital terminal device.

10. The apparatus of Claim 5 wherein said alternative application software program is configured as an upgrade application software program, said upgrade application software program adapted to be written into said default application program of said digital terminal device, such that said default application is thereby upgraded.

11. The apparatus of Claim 5 wherein said alternative application software program is configured as a corrective application software program, said corrective application software program is adapted to be written into said default application program of said digital terminal device, such that the portion of said default application program of said digital terminal device functioning improperly is corrected such that proper functionality is restored to said default application program.

12. In a digital terminal device, wherein said digital terminal device is a set top box configured with a default application program, a method for accessing and utilizing data contained within digital storage media, wherein said digital storage media is a memory stick, said method comprising the steps of:

a) receiving said digital storage media, said step a) performed by a media receiving apparatus, said media receiving apparatus communicatively coupled to said digital terminal device; and

b) accessing said data contained within said digital storage media, said step b) performed by an accessing mechanism coupled to said media receiving apparatus; and

c) relaying said data to said digital terminal device, said step c) performed by a relaying mechanism coupled to said media receiving apparatus, wherein said data is an alternative application software program to be used in said digital terminal device.

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13. The method as recited in Claim 12 wherein said step a) further comprises the step of:

a1) inserting said digital storage media into said media receiving apparatus.

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14. The method as recited in Claim 12 wherein said step a) further comprises the step of:

a2) applying power to the digital terminal device such that said digital terminal device is thereby turned on, once said digital storage media is inserted into said media receiving apparatus.

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15. The method as recited in Claim 12 wherein said step b) further comprises the step of:

b1) accessing said data contained within said digital storage media, said data containing said alternative application software program to be used by said digital terminal device.

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16. The method as recited in Claim 12 wherein step c) further comprises the steps of:

b2) said accessing of said data controlled by pre-existing instructions disposed within programmable non-volatile memory coupled to said digital terminal device; and

b3) said accessed data is disposed within the root directory of said  
5 digital storage media.

17. The method as recited in Claim 12 wherein said step c) further comprises the step of:

c1) relaying said data containing said alternative application software  
10 program to said digital terminal device.

18. The method as recited in Claim 12 wherein said alternative application software program contained within said data is adapted as a stand-alone application software program, said stand-alone application  
15 software program adapted to be implemented in said digital terminal device instead of said default application program said configured in said digital terminal device.

19. The method as recited in Claim 12 wherein said alternative  
20 application software program contained within said data is adapted as an upgrade application software program, wherein said upgrade application software program is further configured to be written into said default application program of said digital terminal device.

20. The method as recited in Claim 12 wherein said alternative application software program contained within said data is adapted as a corrective application software program be written into said default application program of said digital terminal device when said default application program is comprising faulty instructions preventing said default application program from functioning properly.